

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 MMS-03 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

CG-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /130 W  
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R 131330Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6000

INFO CINCLANT NORFOLK VIRGINIA

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON ENGLAND

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T TANANARIVE 0189

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, IO, MA

SUBJ: SUPPORT OF US NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA

REF: STATE 028352

1. AS DEPT KNOWS, GOMR SUDDENLY REVERSED EARLIER DECISION AND REFUSED AUTHORIZATION FOR US NAVAL VISIT TO MADAGASCAR IN DEC 1973. EMB SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD BAN WOULD CONTINUE UNTIL MIDEAST CONFLICT SETTLED.

2. FURTHER, AS EMB COMMENTED IN TANA 01 2, GOMR REACTION TO US DECISION EXPAND FACILITIES AT DIEGO GARCIA COULD MEAN HARDENING OF MALAGASY POSITION FOR BOTH SHORTER AND LONGER TERM WITH RESPECT TO US NAVAL SHIP VISITS.

3. HOWEVER, ONLY EMB APPROACH TO GOMR CAN REAWLY DETERMINE GOMR POSITION. WE PREPARED MAKE SUCH APPROACH AT APPROPRIATE TIME -- THAT IS, AFTER EXTENSION OF NASA STATION AGREEMENT DISPOSED OF.

4. OUR CURRENT THINKING IS TO MAKE APPROACH FIRST TO MIN TERR-  
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ITORIAL DEVELOPMENT GEN ANDRIAMAHAZO NOT ONLY BECAUSE HE WELL-

DISPOSED TOWARD US, BUT ALSO BECAUSE HIS DEPARTMENT RECENTLY GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR NAVAL ARSENAL (REPAIR FACILITIES, ETC.) AT DIEGO-SUAREZ. WE KNOW COMIDEASTFOR INTERESTED IN EMERGENCY REPAIR CONTRACT WITH MALAGASY FACILITY, AND PLAN USE THAT INTEREST AND PRESUMED MALAGASY DESIRE FOR ADDITIONAL WORK TO OCCUPY ARSENAL AS WEDGE TO REINTRODUCE NAVAL SHIP VISIT QUESTION.

5. EVENTUALLY IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE NECESSARY TAKE MATTER UP WITH RATSIRAKA FOR DECISION, BUT SHOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE FIRST GAINED SUPPORT OF ANDRIAMHAZO.

6. US AUTHORIZATION OF MILITARY CASH SALES TO MADAGASCAR COULD HAVE FAVORABLE IMPACT ON MALAGASY DECISION, OR, EVEN BETTER, OF COURSE, IF US COULD GO BEYOND CASH SALES.

7. IF GOMR SHOULD BE PREPARED AGREE TO NAVAL SHIP VISITS, BELIEVE THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM ABOUT CLEARANCES FOR OCCASIONAL FLIGHTS OF SUPPORT AIRCRAFT FOR PURPOSES ENVISAGED PARA 2(B) REFTTEL, BUT STRONGLY DOUBT CLEARANCE WOULD BE GIVEN FOR STRAIGHT MILITARY AIRCRAFT NOT HAVING SPECIFIC SUPPORT MISSION OF TYPES INDICATED. AS IN PAST, THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM FOR PERSONNEL SHORE LEAVE, MILITARY POLICE FUNCTION, OR BUNKERING IF AVAILABILITIES ALLOW IT. WE WOULD NOT EXPECT LEGAL CONTINGENCY ISSUE TO BE RAISED BY MALAGASY SIDE, AND SHOULD NOT RAISE IT ON OUR SIDE.

MENDENHALL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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